REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for his telephone discussion of the Claims on 11 January 2007.

The Examiner has indicated the presence of allowable subject matter in Claims 2-6 and 9-13.

The applicant has therefore incorporated the subject matter of Claim 2 into its parent Claim 1. Claim 2 has therefore been cancelled. The applicant submits that Claim 1 is now allowable.

Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend from Claim 1 as amended. The Applicant submits that Claims 3 and 4 add further advantageous features and are patentable as their parent Claim 1.

Claim 5 is dependent from Claim 4, and adds further advantageous features. Claim 5 is submitted to be allowable as its parent Claim 4.

Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of its parent Claim 1. The Applicant submits that Claim 6 is now allowable, since the Examiner has indicated that Claim 6 would be allowable if it incorporated the subject matter of its parent Claim 1.

Claim 7 is dependent from Claim 1 as amended, and add further advantageous features. Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable as its parent Claim 1.

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 9. Since the Examiner has indicated that Claim 9 contains allowable subject matter, the Applicant submits that Claim 8 is now allowable. Claim 9 has been cancelled.

Claim 10 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 8, which incorporates the subject matter of Claim 9, which the Examiner has indicated to contain allowable subject matter. The Applicant submits that Claim 10 is allowable as its parent Claim 8.

The Claims of this application are directed to two aspects of the invention:

Claims 1 and 3-7 are directed to a method for managing a session key.

Claims 8 and 10-14 are directed to an apparatus for managing a session key.

Claim 4, which is dependent from independent Claim 1, recites that the step of selecting a session key comprises placing the session key on hold.

Claim 11 recites a selecting means which places the session key on hold. It is clear that Claim 11 should be dependent from independent Claim 8, as Claim 4 is dependent from independent Claim 1. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to accept the Applicant's correction of the dependency of Claim 11.

Claim 12 is dependent from Claim 10, and add further advantageous features. Claim 12 is submitted to be allowable as its parent Claim 10.

Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of its parent Claim 8. The Examiner has indicated that Claim 13, as so amended, would be allowable.

Claim 14 is dependent from amended Claim 8 and adds further advantageous features. The Applicant submits that Claim 14 is allowable as its parent Claim 8.

Claim 15 has been cancelled.

In summary, the Applicant has submitted Claims 2-6 and 9-13 in a form rewritten to include all of the recitations of their parent Claims. Claim 7 is dependent from Claim 1, which has been amended as directed by the Examiner, and adds further advantageous features. The Applicant submits that Claim 7 is now allowable as its parent Claim 1.

The dependency of Claim 11 has been corrected.

Claim 14 is dependent from Claim 8, which has been amended as directed by the Examiner, and is believed to be patentable as its parent Claim 8.

Since this amendment does nothing more than amend the Claims according to the Examiner's directions, and correct the dependency of Claim 11, the Applicant submits that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

The Applicant has enclosed a fee sheet to recalculate the fees for the Claims, since the application now contains four independent Claims.

The Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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